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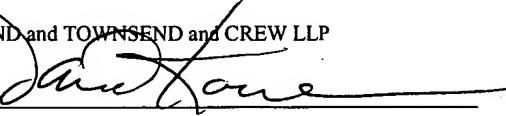
PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 020915-001500US

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On August 4, 2005

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: 

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Spears, Louis E. et al.

Confirmation No. 8077

Application No.: 10/764,210

Examiner: Khiem M. Nguyen

Filed: January 22, 2004

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2839

For: COMPUTER INPUT/OUTPUT  
CONNECTOR ASSEMBLY

**RESPONSE TO SECOND  
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT  
AND INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

Customer No.: 20350

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the second restriction requirement mailed June 28, 2005, for which a petition is submitted to extend time for one month from July 28, 2005 to August 28, 2005, the Examiner required further restriction of remaining claims 1-16 into one of the following groups under 35 USC § 121:

Group I            Figure 1  
Group II          Figures 2-4

Before addressing the merits of this second restriction requirement, Applicants would first like to thank Examiner Nguyen for speaking by telephone with their undersigned

Appl. No. 10/764,310  
Response dated August 4, 2005  
Reply to Restriction Requirement of June 28, 2005

PATENT  
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attorney on July 18, 2005. For the reasons explained in this response, an agreement was reached that no further election is required and examination can move forward on claims 1-16.

35 U.S.C. § 121 provides that the Examiner may issue a restriction requirement where "two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application." As discussed during the telephone interview, Applicants' Figs. 1 and 2-4 merely show different views of the same invention, not "two or more independent and distinct inventions." More specifically, Fig. 1 shows the claimed connector assembly (20) embedded in a personal computer tower, while Figs. 2-4 shows close up views of the Fig. 1 connector assembly (20). Since all of Applicants' drawings pertain to the same connector assembly, there is no point in electing among Applicants' drawings. Indeed, to make such an election would falsely suggest that there is a difference between the connector assemblies shown in Applicants' drawings when, in fact, there is none.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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